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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,088	10/21/2005	Roger Siljeholm	43315-223685	2889
26694	7590	05/20/2008		
VENABLE LLP P.O. BOX 34385 WASHINGTON, DC 20043-9998			EXAMINER THOMAS, LUCY M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2836	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/554,088

Applicant(s)

SILJEHOLM ET AL.

Examiner

Lucy Thomas

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on 2/08/2008. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Recitation of "an axis of symmetry of the cross-section of the first strand is inclined with respect to a corresponding axis of symmetry of the cross-section of the second strand" renders the claim indefinite, as the cross-sections of the first and second strand are limited as "wherein the first and the second strand have asymmetric cross-sections". If there is no symmetry, it is unclear how an axis of symmetry is defined (an axis of symmetry exists when there is a rotational symmetry). It appears that the Applicant meant lack of linear symmetry, however, asymmetry excludes any kind of symmetry. Since the specification supports strands having symmetry (rotational), for examination purposes "wherein the first and the second strand have symmetric cross-sections" is considered. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Holmstrom et al. (US 5,608,597).

Regarding Claim 1, Holmstrom discloses a surge arrester (Figures 1-3) comprising a stack of a plurality of cylindrical varistor blocks 10, preferably made of metal oxide (Zinc oxide), which are arranged one after another in an axial direction of the varistor blocks, an upper end electrode 11 and a lower end electrode 12;

clamping members 14-17 of insulating material comprising at least three loops (four loops, 14, 15, 16, 17) of continuously wound fiber, which connect the upper end electrode to the lower end electrode, wherein each loop comprises a first strand and a second strand, wherein the first strand and the second strand have symmetric cross-sections, such that a cross-section of the first strand is mirror symmetric to a cross-section of the second strand, and wherein an axis of symmetry of the cross-section of the first strand is inclined with respect to a corresponding axis of symmetry of the cross-section of the second strand (loops of rectangular/square cross section are wound on a circular body, and the axis of symmetry of the cross-sections would be inclined to each other),

a bursting-protective bandage 21 comprising a plurality of rings or bands wound of fiber, and a surrounding, electrically insulating, outer casing 23 of rubber or other polymeric material (see Abstract, Claim 1, Column 2, lines 44-57).

Alternatively (if Applicant meant lack of linear symmetry), Holmstrom does not disclose that the strands have cross section with no linear symmetry (Holmstrom discloses loops having square/rectangular cross section having linear symmetry). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the shape of the loops of Holmstrom, to have any shape to provide the

required or necessary contact pressure (see Holmstrom Abstract, lines 4-8), because shape, size, and number of loops are based on contact pressure required for the particular surge arrester system.

Claims 2-5 basically recite the increased contact area of the recited asymmetrical loop and that the increased contact area shorten the free span of the rings to be wound closer to the stack (the more area contacted or covered by loops leaves less area for the rings to cover), and enable the ring or bands to be wound closer to the stack (thickness of the loops determines how close the bands are wound to the stack), and Holmstrom's loops function to provide the necessary contact pressure, and recited limitations are necessarily met.

Regarding Claim 6, Holmstrom discloses that the cross sections of the loops are adapted such that the shapes of the rings or bands become approximately circular (a substantially square shape is approximately circular, see Claim 6).

Regarding Claim 7, Holmstrom discloses that the cross sections of the loops essentially correspond to two mirror-inverted square (the recited rhomb or rhomboid is an diagonally stretched rectangle).

Regarding Claim 8, Holmstrom discloses the surge arrester, characterized in that the rings or bands are wound of aramide fiber or glass fiber with an epoxy or vinyl ester matrix (see Claims 9-11).

Regarding Claim 9, Holmstrom discloses varistor blocks made of zinc oxide (see Abstract).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 2/08/2008 have been fully considered.

Regarding Applicant's arguments toward Holmstrom reference: Holmstrom teaches all elements of Claim 1, except that the strands have different shape or cross sectional symmetry (Holmstrom's strands have square and/or regular rectangular shape and the recited strands have a stretched rectangular or rhomboidal shape). One of ordinary skill in art would appreciate that the cross sectional symmetry is a result of the shape of the strands, and would be obvious to modify the shape of the loops of Holmstrom, to have any shape or cross sectional symmetry to provide the required or necessary contact pressure (see Holmstrom Abstract, lines 4-8), because shape, size, and number of loops are based on contact pressure required for the particular surge arrester system, and to meet other design requirements such as space and cost.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lucy Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-6002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on 571-272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2836

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael J Sherry/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2836
LT
May 14, 2008